

tance to endeavorers. Many arts and industries were represented. We saw them weaving silk, making tacks, etc. Opening off of the main room was a smaller room where seats were given us, and music furnished—a band concert. After resting there for a time, we left the building, took the street car and visited Alameda, a suburban town, then went out to Piedmont and visited the park, and returned to Oakland once more, our guide remaining with us until we took the car for the Ferry to return to San Francisco. It was a delightful day, and we left Oakland with hearts warm with gratitude to its people, and to our white capped guide who added so much to the day's pleasures.

On Wednesday, we went on an excursion to Santa Cruz, and the big trees. We were to stop long enough at the trees to eat our dinner,—a fifty cent dinner however, not a free one. Alighting from the cars, ready to enter the grounds, we saw ticket windows, and "Twenty five cent admittance." This was a scheme, which many resented. Some paid at once and entered, some contended sharply, some "entered not by the door, but climbed up another way, "or rather crept through under the wire fence. Our party, having lunch with us, remained outside, taking snap shots of the scenery, resting under the shade of the large trees not enclosed, and looking through the fence at the larger trees within.

After a time, the gate keeper announced that as we had behaved so quietly outside, we might enter free. We accepted the invitation and soon afterward stood under some of the largest trees we had ever seen, one of which was said to measure eighteen feet in diameter at the base. One was hollow, forming a good sized room with seats, affording a place of rest to tired visitors. After a short stay, we boarded the train again, and soon after were at Santa Cruz, a beautiful little town on the coast. We spent most of our stay there on the beach, watching the bathers, enjoying the ocean breeze, and watching the waves roll in upon the sand. Our trains remained standing at the depot during our stay in Santa Cruz, and while we were enjoying the city and the beach, the ladies decorated all the cars with flowers. The decorations of our car were principally ferns and magnolia blossoms. We felt that we were indeed in the land of "orange blossom and magnolia bloom." About four o'clock we left Santa Cruz, and our train pulled out in the midst of cheers, good wishes and salutes from the crowd of endeavorers at the depot. It was a three hours ride through varied scenery. Sometimes we seemed to be riding on the tops of tall trees, so elevated was the road above the land on one side of us. At other times we passed through deep cuts, and through several long tunnels, one three miles in length. We passed through a part of the fruit belt, principally olives, peach and apricot orchards. The apricots were ripe, the trees loaded, and the fruit very tempting.

At one place we stopped near some cot-

tages, with apricot trees in front of them. A gentleman quickly jumped from the cars and ran over to purchase some. A lady came out with a paper sack and began to fill it. The sight was too much for the other passengers, and soon we amused ourselves watching the men from all the cars running for apricots. The fruit showered down as some shook the trees while others gathered the golden, luscious fruit. The contagion spread to the ladies, and two or three more venturesome than the rest started for the cottages, but just when they were half way across, the engine puffed, and what a rush and scramble to get on board again.

We reached San Francisco late in the evening, very tired and glad to rest, thankful to our Heavenly Father for His care over us another day.

LAURA E. N. GROSSNICKLE.

## The Sunday School

### LESSON FOR NOVEMBER 14

BY THE EDITOR

#### Paul's Ministry at Rome.—Acts 28:17-31.

GOLDEN TEXT.—I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth.—Rom. 1:16.

LESSON THOUGHT.—In the humblest and lowliest position in life we may be useful and do service for Christ.

#### Home Readings

Paul's Ministry in Rome, Acts 28:17-22.  
Paul's Ministry in Rome, Acts 28:23-31.  
The Words of Isaiah, Isa. 6:5-10.  
Christ in the Scriptures, John 5:39-47.  
Hearing without Profit, Rom. 10:13-21.  
Hindrances of Unbelief, Heb. 3:7-10.  
Shut out. Heb. 4:1-11.

#### Introductory Notes

Rome had many great heroes and conquerors in its time, but the greatest conqueror and the noblest hero that ever entered the eternal city was the apostle Paul. How the hearts of the Roman Christians must have leaped with joy when they caught the first glimpse of that wonderful man who had written them a letter which remains to this day a permanent contribution to the rich treasure house of Christendom. He had long wished to visit Rome. That day had now come, but how different from what he had expected. He goes there in chains as a prisoner. It was thro many trials and tribulations and weary weeks of persecution that he finally landed in Rome. Here is a wonderful fulfillment of Rom. 8:28. Who shall say but that Paul was able to accomplish more at Rome as a prisoner than he could otherwise have done? The advantages of Paul's position at Rome are thus summed by Peloubet:

1. He was safe from all the intrigues and plots of the Jews. He could not have been better guarded.
2. He was brought into conspicuous notice. Everyone could hear of the famous man, learn the story of his past labors, and of his journey.

3. He could preach with perfect freedom to all who came. He could converse with individuals or preach to companies.

4. The soldier chained to him was relieved at stated intervals, so that a large number of soldiers would come under his influence. They would hear all he said to others; he would converse with them personally, and they would be won by the sweetness of his spirit, his patience, his earnestness, and love. Tradition says that the greatest statesman, Seneca, was among the converts to Christianity, by the preaching of Paul.

#### The Lesson Explained

17. *Three days.* It is not said how the three days were spent, probably resting after his long journey. Then too, he would learn something of the condition of things among the Christians before he would call the Jews. *Chief Jews.* Representative men. Rome had a large population of Jews. *Delivered prisoner.* Just as Agabus had prophesied. Acts 21:11.

18. *Let me go.* "Desired to set me at liberty." Compare the words of four prominent officials. Acts 23:19; 24:23; 25:18, 19, 25; 26:31, 32. All were convinced of Paul's innocence.

19. *Appeal unto Caesar.* It was the only way he could obtain justice. To the Jew this was a horrible action, as it seemed an appeal away from "the Judge of all the earth."

20. *Hope of Israel.* The national hope of a Messiah, and the resurrection from the dead. For this hope Paul was in chains as he explains to the Jews.

21, 22. *Letters.* They may have heard of Paul's great work but they had received no communication from the brethren which in this verse refers to Jews and not to Christians. *Desire to hear.* They sincerely desired to hear a statement of what Paul believed. *Sect.* The Christians.

23, 24. *Lodging.* Not his hired house mentioned in verse 30, but his stopping place, probably at the house of a friend. *Kingdom of God.* The argument of Paul is that the hope of Israel for which he was bound with chains, was founded on the teaching of both the law and the prophets.

25-28. *Departed.* The unbelieving majority dissolved the meeting. *One word.* A final statement of the responsibility of these Jews for their own mental blindness. *Esaias.* Isa. 6:9, 10. *Therefore.* Because of your hardness of heart "this salvation of God" is sent to the Gentiles for they will hear it.

30, 31. *Two years.* A long time to wait for trial but Paul made good use of the time for he preached the kingdom of God with great effect. *Forbidding him.* He had great liberty and a freedom of speech which he did not have at Caesarea.

#### The Lesson Applied

1. *True Christian Love.*—Paul exercised the spirit of true Christian love. He believed that Jesus was the Messiah the Jews looked for, and he believed it so thoroughly that he was willing to undergo hardships and suf-